

Living as God's Treasured Possession Part IV
Ephesians 4:17-32

Avoid immorality
Adapt spirituality

The Christian life that has “learned Christ” (Eph. 4:20) and has been “created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness” (Eph. 4:24) is a morally and relationally transformed life. The gospel that makes us right with God plants within our lives the life of God. Not only do believers live their lives “in Christ,” but God in Christ lives in them (Eph. 1:3, 20–22; see also John 14:20–24; Eph. 3:17; 1 John 3:9). The New Testament could not be more clear and more insistent that anyone who professes to be a Christian but does not keep God’s commandments and does not love their fellow Christians is a liar, the truth is not in them, and God’s love does not abide in them (1 John 2:3–4; 3:14–15).

Hamilton, Ian. 2017. [Ephesians](#). Edited by Joel R. Beeke and Jon D. Payne. The Lectio Continua Expository Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids, MI: Reformation Heritage Books

Truth alone

Ephesians 4:25 **Therefore, having put away falsehood**, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.

Falsehood (pseudos): falsehood, lie, deceit

Ephesians 4:24 and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Ephesians 4:15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,

John 8:44 You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. **When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.**

Ephesians 4:25 **Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.**

Ephesians 4:15–16 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Good and Angry

Ephesians 4:26 Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger,

James 1:19–20 Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰ for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

Where we encounter hypocrisy and unbelief in the life of Christ's church, a lack of anger would be a sign of our indifference and perhaps complicity in those sins.

Hamilton, Ian. 2017. [Ephesians](#). Edited by Joel R. Beeke and Jon D. Payne. The Lectio Continua Expository Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids, MI: Reformation Heritage Books.

John 11:33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, **he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled.**

He was deeply moved (embrimaomai): to snort with anger; storm with anger; be indignant

Greatly troubled (tarassō): to cause movement, usually as the result of shaking or stirring

Isaiah 59:14–17 Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands far away; for truth has stumbled in the public squares, and uprightness cannot enter. ¹⁵ Truth is lacking, and he who departs from evil makes himself a prey. The LORD saw it, and it displeased him that there was no justice. ¹⁶ He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no one to intercede; then his own arm brought him salvation, and his righteousness upheld him. ¹⁷ He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on his head; he put on garments of vengeance for clothing, and wrapped himself in zeal as a cloak.

Ephesians 4:26 Be angry and do not **sin**; do not let the sun go down on your anger,

Ephesians 4:26–27 Be angry and do not sin; **do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷and give no opportunity to the devil.**

Opportunity (topos) place, location

Paul's third qualification is *give no opportunity to the devil* (verse 27), for he knows how fine is the line between righteous and unrighteous anger, and how hard human beings find it to handle their anger responsibly. So he loves to lurk round angry people, hoping to be able to exploit the situation to his own advantage by provoking them into hatred or violence or a breach of fellowship.

Stott, John R. W. 1979. [God's New Society: The Message of Ephesians](#). The Bible Speaks Today. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

Don't steal work to share

Ephesians 4:28 Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.

Exodus 20:15 "You shall not steal.

2 Thessalonians 3:10 For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat.

Watch your words

Ephesians 4:29 Let no **corrupting** talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.

corrupting (sapos): rotten; putrid; unwholesome

Ephesians 4:29 Let no **corrupting** talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for **building up**, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.

Building up (oikodomē): make more able; edification; to build up

Ephesians 2:18–22 For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the **household** of God, ²⁰**built** on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, ²¹in whom the

whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²²In him you also **are being built** together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Proverbs 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.

Colossians 4:6 Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

Matthew 15:19–20 For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰These are what defile a person. But to eat with unwashed hands does not defile anyone.”

Ephesians 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Ephesians 4:31 Let all **bitterness** and **wrath** and **anger** and **clamor** and **slander** be put away from you, along with all **malice**.

Bitterness (pikria)

Wrath (thymos)

Anger (orgē): wrath as an outburst of a vengeful mind

Clamor (kraugē): shouting; screaming

Slander (blasphēmia): blasphemy, the content of defamation or slander

Malice (kakia): hateful feeling; hostility

Ephesians 4:32 **Be kind to one another**, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Kind (chrēstos): benevolent; pertaining to that which is pleasant or easy, with the implication of suitability

Luke 6:35–36 But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. ³⁶Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

Ephesians 4:32 Be kind to one another, **tenderhearted**, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Tenderhearted (eusplachnos): compassionate

Ephesians 4:32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, **forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.**

Forgiving (charizomai): to hand over control

In his postscript to the Lord's Prayer, Jesus impressed on His disciples the absolute necessity of forgiving others: "If you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses" (Matt. 6:15). Jesus is not saying that because we forgive others God will forgive us. He is saying that an unforgiving heart is a symptom of an unforgiven heart. Is it possible to receive God's gracious and costly forgiveness in Christ and not ever be ready to forgive others who have sinned against us?

Hamilton, Ian. 2017. [Ephesians](#). Edited by Joel R. Beeke and Jon D. Payne. The Lectio Continua Expository Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids, MI: Reformation Heritage Books.